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SUMMARY

MODERNIZING THE LIGHT INDUSTRY OF AZERBAIDZHAN

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Light industry of the Azerbaijan SSR dates from the establishment of the first sewing factory and tanneries in Baku in 1922. Two more sewing factories were built in Baku and Xirovabad in 1925-26. Other branches of light industry -- footwear, knit goods, and leather goods -- were started a short time later.

Large new enterprises are being built and existing ones reconstructed and fitted with the latest equipment. Tannery processes are being mechanized, the sewing industry is being converted to assembly-line methods, and tanneries and shoe factories are being reconstructed. Automatic machines are replacing hand-operated ones in the knit-goods industry, and silk-weaving machines are being adopted.

The Sewing Factory imeni Volodarskiy, one of the largest such enterprises in the Soviet Union, was completed in 1934. A large mechanized knit-goods combine with a steam-power plant and subsidiary workshops also began manufacturing during the Second Five-Year Plan. Its annual output capacity is estimated at 25 million pairs of hosiery and 4 million articles of knitted underwear.

The volume of gross production of the entire Azerbaijanian light industry by the beginning of the war had increased 105 times as compared with 1923-24, while the number of workers rose 28 times and output per worker nearly four times.

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Azerbaijdzhan light industry continued to expand during the war and to supply the armed forces with necessary uniforms and equipment. Additional equipment was installed, and new shops and compound machinery were put into operation. The new Baku Shoe Factory imeni Mikoyan was built at the end of 1942 utilizing the equipment of a similar factory evacuated from Rostov. A new branch of industry was developed during the war in Azerbaijan -- the artificial leather industry, which utilized local raw materials and industrial wastes.

Organizational and technical experience gained during the war aided in the postwar reconstruction and conversion of light industry to mass production of consumer goods. Capital repair and reconstruction, the use of additional equipment, and the introduction of assembly-line production and thorough mechanization enabled the industry to increase steadily its monthly commodity output.

The 1946 program was completed ahead of schedule and more than one million rubles' worth of commodities were turned out in excess of the plan. Labor productivity was 5 percent above plan. Savings resulting from lowered production costs in excess of the requirements amounted to 2,685,000 rubles.

The 10-month plan in 1947 was completed in 9 months. The 1947 plan envisages the following increases over the previous year's actual output: Hosiery, 58 percent; knitted underwear, 50 percent; footwear, 40 percent; chrome leather, 46 percent; hard-leather goods, 25 percent; and artificial leather, 29 percent.

Azerbaijdzhan workers developed and put into practice organizational and technical measures to carry out the 23 December 1946 decree of the Soviet of Ministers USSR on measures to accelerate the development of State light-industry enterprises producing consumer goods. Two mechanical conveyers were assembled and put into operation during the first half of 1947 at the Sewing Factory imeni Volodarskiy. Out-of-order machinery was repaired, and 140 additional automatic machines were installed at the Azerbaijan Knit Goods Combine. Tannery No 2 began to process leather wastes for the first time in April. Several workers at the Sewing Factory imeni Volodarskiy, the Sewing Factory imeni Ali-Bayramov, and Footwear Factory No 1 exceeded their assignments during the competition to complete the 1947 plan ahead of schedule.

High-production methods devised by Matrosov, a cutter at the Moscow "Parizskaya Kommuna" Footwear Factory, and A. Ivanov, a Ural technologist, were adopted during a 3-month industrialization program throughout the industry at the request of the Ministry of Light Industry of Azerbaijan.

All-out economy and the search for additional raw materials to further increase production resulted in the conservation of 172,000 square decimeters of chrome-leather goods, 226,000 square decimeters of chrome-leather linings, 221,000 square decimeters of Russia leather, etc., during 8 months of 1947. Sewing factories during the same period revised 174 designs and made 144 stencils, and also saved, 4,550 meters of woolen fabric, 43,500 meters of cotton fabric, and 9,160 meters of silk fabric.

The Azerbaijan Knit-Goods Combine acquired a new economical drying chamber. The sorting of hosiery before redyeing reduced the consumption of dyes.

The Soviet of Ministers USSR on 1 July 1947 noted that poor-quality shoes were being produced by the light-industry enterprises and called upon the workers to improve the quality and assortment of products. There has been some improvement in subsequent output.

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A larger quantity of colored leather goods, including kid and chrome leather, are now produced at Tannery No 1. A concentrated tanning method is being used to a certain extent at Tannery No 2.

These measures to conserve raw materials and improve the quality of goods are still inadequate, however, and Azerbaydzhani enterprises are still unable to meet consumer demands. Manufacture of hosiery by 1950 must increase 25 percent as compared to 1940, knitted underwear 40 percent, and shoes 300 percent.

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